

2018

Introduction

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Recommended Citation

Cook, Daniel; Dorval, Doris; and Zoldan, Madelaine (2018) "Introduction," *Intertext*. Vol. 26 : Iss. 1 , Article 4.

Available at: <https://surface.syr.edu/intertext/vol26/iss1/4>

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Words on a page. Not to be reduced to merely their presence on a blank canvas, but commended for prompting the widest range of human emotions. It is our very existence that inspires these words to have the power to transport us through time and space, evoking the raw emotion of lived experiences. Each of the writers in this edition have created these scenes and moments in classes and workshops.

The Department of Writing Studies, Rhetoric, and Composition encourages its students to pursue every aspect of writing, nurturing writers of creative nonfiction, professional writing, and every style in between. Although students may thrive in the classroom and produce exceptional work, it is frequently only professors who have the opportunity to read it. This publication aims to change that. By publishing submissions from SU students, *Intertext* gives us the chance to learn from their perspectives. Many are accounts of sorrow, hope, and overcoming the past. Each piece illustrates the stories of our students and community, creating an enduring image for everyone to enjoy.

Several of these narratives feature emotionally heavy content, serving as a testimony to the bravery of our authors for making scenes from their lives public. We at *Intertext* ask only that you approach each story with an open mind. While working behind the scenes, we were privileged to analyze every submission and collectively share our interpretations. We encourage our readers to do the same, not just with *Intertext* but in your daily lives. Do not shy away from topics that scare you or make you uncomfortable but instead acknowledge them, discuss them, and

benefit from the experiences and perspectives of others.

Acknowledgements

First and foremost, we extend our deepest gratitude to the writers and artists who contributed their work to this year's issue. Whether or not your piece was included in this edition, your willingness to share your stories with us and the Syracuse University community is what makes *Intertext* possible.

We would, of course, like to thank our professor, Patrick W. Berry, who led our class with patience, creativity, and an intense attention to detail. His guidance and high regard for our own perspectives is what drove this publication and shaped submissions that follow.

Thank you to Benay Bubar for providing us with professional guidance, knowledge, and encouragement in a field that most of us have just begun to explore. We also want to thank the Louise Wetherbee Phelps Awards judges—Emily Dressing, Jonna Gilfus, Lenny Grant, and Brett Keegen—for putting their valuable time and consideration into choosing the most exemplary upper- and lower-division pieces.

In closing, we are sincerely grateful to the College of Arts and Sciences, including its iLEARN initiative, for supporting our work at *Intertext* and all of the aspiring writers here at Syracuse University in their quest to explore everything writing has to offer.

—Daniel Cook, Doris Dorval, and
Madeline Zoldan

